

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 10: Cancelled

11. (New) An apparatus for introducing gas into a liquid, comprising:
a rigid profiled support member 1,21,31, wherein said support member is provided with at least one recessed area 11, 23, 33; and
an elastic tube 2, 22, 32 disposed on said profiled support member, wherein said elastic tube is provided with elastically expandable slits, and wherein compressed air or gas is adapted to escape into the liquid, in the form of bubbles, through said slits when they are expanded.
12. (New) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said at least one recessed area 11, 23, 33 extends substantially over an entire length of said profiled support member 1, 21, 31.
13. (New) An apparatus according to claim 11, which is adapted to be disposed on a base 7 of a receptacle that contains water, or a body of water that is to be aerated, and wherein said at least one recessed area 11 is disposed on an upper side 9 of said profiled support member 1.
14. (New) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said profiled support member 21 has a circular or nearly circular cross-sectional configuration, wherein said elastic tube 22 encases said profiled support member 21, and wherein said at least one recessed area 23 is disposed on an underside of the profiled support member 21.
15. (New) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said profiled support member 31 has a circular or nearly circular cross-sectional configuration, wherein said elastic

tube 32 encases said profiled support member 31, and wherein recessed areas 33 are disposed on sides of said profiled support member 31.

16. (New) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said elastic tube 22, 32 has ends that are secured via clamps to said profiled support member 21, 31, wherein fillers 24, 34 are disposed in said at least one recessed area 23, 33 on a longitudinal portion of said profiled support member 21, 31 on which said clamps are disposed, and wherein said fillers 24, 34 restore an outer contour of said profiled support member 21, 31 to a shape that said profiled support member would have without said at least one recessed area.

17. (New) An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said fillers 24, 34 restore the outer contour of said profiled support member 21, 31 to a circular shape.

18. (New) An apparatus according to claim 16 wherein said fillers 24, 34 are made of rubber or a rubber-like material.

19. (New) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said elastic tube 2, 22, 32, at least at one end thereof, is secured to said profiled support member 1, 21, 31 via clamps, and wherein in the region of said clamps, said profiled support member has no recessed area and an outer perimeter of said profiled support member corresponds at least to an inner diameter of said elastic tube.

20. (New) An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein in the region of its securement to said profiled support member 1, 21, 31, said elastic tube 2, 22, 32 has no elastically expandable slits.